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TO RUESGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY 0000
RUESSD/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY 0000
BT
UNCLAS STATE 001574

JOINT STATE/AID

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE ON CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

REF: JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE 233616

THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE RE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF
MEMORANDUM PROVIDED FOR USE ON IF-ASKED BASIS:

Q: DO YOU AGREE WITH MR. HOLT'S STAFF MEMORANDUM AND
OBSERVATIONS ON GUATEMALA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC --
THAT OUR AID HAS NOT ENABLED ANY REAL PROGRESS -- AND WITH
HIS CONDEMNATION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS?

A: THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY MR. HOLT, AND ENDORSED BY
SENATOR CHURCH, RESULTED FROM MR. HOLT'S RECENT ONE-MAN
STUDY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA AND THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC, FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS.

NEITHER THE STATE DEPT NOR AID CAN SUPPORT THE
CONCLUSIONS EXPRESSED IN THAT REPORT. AS FOR THE CONTENTION
THAT THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO PROGRESS
IN GUATEMALA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, I SHOULD LIKE
TO POINT OUT THAT OUR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS --
INCLUDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC SAFETY -- ARE
UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AND THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US
DOES NOT SUPPORT MR. HOLT'S THESIS.

State Department review completed. Referral to Commerce not required.

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Q: IT'S BEEN CLAIMED THAT; IN GUATEMALA, WE'VE BEEN ASSISTING A POLICE FORCE THAT ENGAGES IN POLICE TERRORISM AND OTHER REPRESSIVE ACTS. CAN YOU COMMENT?

A: PUBLIC SAFETY ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AT THE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF SUCCESSIVE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENTS OF VARYING POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES. IT IS PROVIDED AS AN ADJUNCT TO AID'S ASSISTANCE TO THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. THESE EFFORTS WERE BEING HAMPERED BY TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION WHICH, IF ALLOWED TO GROW, WOULD HAVE BECOME A SERIOUS THREAT TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STABILITY. IN RECENT YEARS, THIS TERRORISM CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWO AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICERS, AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, A WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR AND MANY GUATEMALANS INCLUDING POLITICAL LEADERS, POLICEMEN, SOLDIERS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS. THE POLICE ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM AS WELL AS AGAINST COMMON CRIMINALS.

IN GUATEMALA -- IN WHATEVER COUNTRY -- THE PURPOSE OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM IS TO ASSIST THE NATIONAL POLICE TO IMPROVE ITS CAPABILITY AS A PROFESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATION WHICH CAN MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF INTERNAL SECURITY, WITH A MINIMUM USE OF FORCE, AND WITHIN THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY.

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN OUR TOTAL ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA?

A: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA FROM 1946 THROUGH 1971 TOTALLED APPROXIMATELY DOLS 373.8 MILLION, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: AID -- DOLS 180SMILLION (GRANTS DOLS 105 MILLION, LOANS DOLS 75 MILLION) INCLUDING DOLS 3.78 MILLION ALLOCATED TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM; FOOD FOR PEACE -- DOLS 22 MILLION; EXPORT IMPORT BANK -- DOLS 90.3 MILLION; AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (PEACE CORPS, SOCIAL PROGRESS TRUST FUND, ETC) -- DOLS 64 MILLION.

MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA DURING THE SAME PERIOD TOTALLED DOLS 17.5 MILLION.

(NOTE: HOLT MEMO UTILIZED FIGURES THROUGH FY 1970. THE FIGURES ABOVE INCLUDE FY 1971).

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Q: IS IT TRUE THAT WE SOLD GUATEMALA EIGHT A-37 AIRCRAFT, TWO OF WHICH HAVE CRACKED UP AND NONE OF WHICH THEY NEED?

A: AS NOTED IN THE HOLT REPORT, GUATEMALA BOUGHT EIGHT A-37B'S FOR DOLS 6.7 MILLION. FIVE MILLION DOLLARS WAS IN CASH, THE REMAINING DOLS 1.7 MILLION IN SHORT-TERM CREDIT PAYABLE BEFORE THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR. ESSENTIALLY, IT WAS THE GUATEMALANS' OWN MONEY AND THEY BOUGHT WHAT THEY BELIEVED THEY NEEDED. THE A-37B IS A RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE, SUB-SONIC LIGHT JET DESIGNED FOR ANTI-GUERRILLA WARFARE IN VIETNAM, AND IS AN APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT FOR GUATEMALA'S PURPOSES. TWO COLLIDED IN FLIGHT SHORTLY AFTER DELIVERY, BUT ONLY ONE WAS DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR.

Q: WHAT ABOUT VARIOUS DOMINICAN CHARGES THAT OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICE EXCESSES AND VIOLENCE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC?

A: TO THE CONTRARY. ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAS BEEN TO EFFECT A CHANGE IN THE ALMOST-TRADITIONAL ATTITUDES AND METHODS OF THE POLICE, WITH EMPHASIS ON MORE HUMANE AND MORE EFFECTIVE METHODS OF OPERATION. MOST DOMINICANS ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS DO NOT CONDONE POLICE EXCESSES, BUT OUR CONTACT WITH THE POLICE HAS BEEN USED ERRONEOUSLY BY ANTI-U.S. ELEMENTS TO CONDEMN US BY ASSOCIATION, ON OCCASION.

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM IN THE DOMREP IS SCHEDULED TO BE PHASED OUT SOON?

A: THERE'S BEEN A STEADY REDUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM AS ITS OBJECTIVES ARE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. AT THIS POINT, THERE ARE ONLY THREE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS, AND IT CAN BE PRESUMED THAT THE SIZE OF PUBLIC SAFETY WILL CONTINUE TO DECLINE AS THE NEED DECREASES.

Q: WHAT ABOUT A PUBLIC SAFETY PHASE-OUT IN GUATEMALA?

A: WITH REGARD TO GUATEMALA, THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION

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TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS STATIONED THERE. HOWEVER, IN ADMINISTERING THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM, WE STRIVE TO ASSURE THAT THERE ARE NO MORE ADVISORS ASSIGNED THAN ARE ABSOLUTELY NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAM.

Q: WHAT ABOUT MAAG IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC? IS IT SIMPLY ANOTHER INTELLIGENCE ARM OF THE USG?

A: NO. THE MAAG HAS TWO MAJOR PURPOSES: (1) TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE EQUIPMENT, MANPOWER, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING NEEDED FOR AN EFFICIENT MILITARY FORCE CONSISTENT WITH THE COUNTRY'S NEEDS AND CAPABILITIES; AND (2) TO ADMINISTER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND TO DETERMINE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DOMINICANS, HOW THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CAN HELP TO ACHIEVE THE MUTUAL OBJECTIVE OF AN EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL MILITARY FORCE.

Q: WHAT IS THE BREAKDOWN OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC?

A: TOTAL U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SINCE WORLD WAR II TOTALS DOLS 483.1 MILLION -- THE BULK OF THE SUM, OF COURSE, WAS PROVIDED BETWEEN THE BEGINNING OF 1962 UNTIL THE PRESENT.

OF THAT TOTAL, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTED FOR DOLS 456.2 MILLION AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE DOLS 26.9 MILLION. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BREAKS DOWN INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT -- DOLS 316 MILLION, OF WHICH DOLS 3.81 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM; FOOD FOR PEACE -- DOLS 91.5 MILLION; EXPORT IMPORT BANK -- DOLS 31.8 MILLION; OTHER OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (SUCH AS PEACE CORPS, THE IDB'S SOCIAL PROGRESS TRUST FUND, ETC.) -- DOLS 16.9 MILLION.

UNDER THE DOLS 456.2 MILLION ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DOLS 257.4 MILLION ARE IN LOAN FUNDS AND DOLS 198.8 ARE IN GRANTS.

Q: WHAT EXACTLY ARE OUR PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES?

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A: FIRST, I SHOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE ADVISORS WORKING IN OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS HAVE NO OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES: THEIR ROLE IS TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND COUNSEL IN SPECIFIC FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF POLICE ACTIVITY, AS ARE REQUESTED BY THE HOST GOVERNMENTS AND AGREED BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PUBLIC SAFETY'S PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES HAVE INCLUDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNTRYWIDE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, THE EXPANSION OF URBAN POLICE PATROLS, THE SETTING-UP OF RURAL POLICE PATROL FORCE, AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION AND USE OF POLICE RESOURCES. THERE ARE THREE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS ASSIGNED TO THE PROGRAM. UNDER THE PROGRAM, SOME 23 DOMINICAN POLICE OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING ANNUALLY IN THE U.S., PRINCIPALLY AT THE AID INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM IN GUATEMALA HAS CONCENTRATED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE, PREVENTIVE POLICE PATROL FOR POPULATION CENTERS, THE STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONAL ELEMENTS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY, THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION CAPABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE CIVIL POLICE FORCES. TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES, APPROXIMATELY 40 GUATEMALAN POLICE ARE SENT TO THE U.S. ANNUALLY FOR ADVANCED TRAINING. THERE ARE CURRENTLY SEVEN PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORS RESIDENT IN GUATEMALA. IRWIN
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